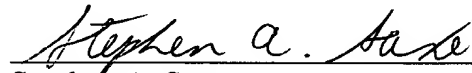


directed to independent and distinct inventions. As urged above, it is asserted that examination of all of the peptide claims will not impose a serious burden.

In view of the above arguments, it is requested that the restriction requirement imposed in the Office Action mailed 28 March 2000 be reconsidered and that all of claims 1-10 and 12-36 be examined together.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen A. Saxe", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen A. Saxe

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 38,609

ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & KURZ, p.c.

Suite 701-E, 555 13th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

Telephone: (202) 783-6040

Dated: 27 April 2000

147a.rst